

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing apparatus that displays on a display an image in which an operating object appearing in a virtual three-dimensional space is seen from a predetermined viewpoint location, comprising:

5 an operating means operated by a player;

a selecting means for selecting the operating object appearing in said virtual three-dimensional space, out of a plurality of the operating objects different in size, based on an operation of said operating means;

a viewpoint-location setting means for setting the viewpoint location in 10 correspondence with said operating object selected by said selecting means; and an image displaying means for displaying a three-dimensional image including said operating object based on said viewpoint location set by said viewpoint-location setting means.

2. An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

15 a viewpoint-location-data storing means for storing each viewpoint location data correlated with each of said plurality of the operating objects; wherein said viewpoint-location setting means reads out from said viewpoint-location-data storing means said viewpoint location data corresponding to said operating object selected by said selecting means so as to set said viewpoint location.

20 3. An image processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein each of said viewpoint location data is set in such a manner as to be displayed as the operating object approximately the same in size even if any one of the operating objects is selected by said selecting means.

4. An image processing apparatus according to claim 2 or 3, wherein 25 said viewpoint location data includes distance data from a point-of-regard,

1 said viewpoint-location setting means reads out said distance data corresponding
2 to said operating object selected by said selecting means so as to set said viewpoint
3 location.

4 5. An image processing apparatus according to any one of claims 2 to 4, wherein
5 said viewpoint location data includes angle data or height data from the
6 point-of-regard,

7 said viewpoint-location setting means reads out said angle data or said height data
8 corresponding to said operating object selected by said selecting means so as to set said
9 viewpoint location.

10 10. 6. A storing medium that stores an image processing program to be executed by an
11 image processing apparatus that is provided with an operating means operated by a
12 player, and displays on a display an image in which an operating object appearing in a
13 virtual three-dimensional space is seen from a predetermined viewpoint location, said
14 image processing program allows a computer of said image processing apparatus to
15 execute following step of:

16 a selecting step for selecting the operating object appearing in said virtual
17 three-dimensional space, out of a plurality of the operating objects different in size, based
18 on an operation of said operating means;

19 20. a viewpoint-location setting step for setting the viewpoint location in
20 correspondence with said operating object selected by said selecting step; and
21 an image displaying step for displaying a three-dimensional image including said
22 operating object selected by said selecting step based on said viewpoint location set by
23 said viewpoint-location setting step.

24 25. 7. A storing medium that stores an image processing program according to claim
25 6, said image processing apparatus further comprises a viewpoint-location-data storing

means for storing each viewpoint location data correlated with each of said plurality of the operating objects; wherein said viewpoint-location setting step reads out from said viewpoint-location-data storing means said viewpoint location data corresponding to said operating object selected by said selecting step so as to set said viewpoint location.

5 8. A storing medium that stores an image processing program according to claim 7, wherein

each of said viewpoint location data is set in such a manner as to be displayed as the operating object approximately the same in size even if any one of the operating objects is selected by said selecting step.

10 9. A storing medium that stores an image processing program according to claim 7 or 8, wherein

 said viewpoint location data includes distance data from a point-of-regard, said viewpoint-location setting step reads out said distance data corresponding to said operating object selected by said selecting step so as to set said viewpoint location.

15 10. A storing medium that stores an image processing program according to any one of claims 7 to 9, wherein

 said viewpoint location data includes angle data or height data from the point-of-regard,

20 said viewpoint-location setting step reads out said angle data or said height data corresponding to said operating object selected by said selecting step so as to set said viewpoint location.